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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

YUKO TACHIBANA :

ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLN. :  
(Based on PCT/JP99/07344)

FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: LAMINATE AND ITS :  
PRODUCTION METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown on the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

Sub  
C2  
A1  
3. (Amended) The laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the interlayer is a layer consisting of at least one member selected from the group consisting of an oxide, a nitride, an oxynitride, a carbide and a boride.

4. (Amended) The laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the interlayer is from 0.1 to 30 nm.

5. (Amended) The laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the metal layer is a layer containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of silver, copper and gold.